

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Abrasive particles of composition selected from the group consisting consisting of fused or sintered corundums, zirconium corundums, silicon carbides and boron carbide, other abrasives ~~and mixtures thereof, and mixtures thereof~~; the abrasive particles having a sheathing comprising an aqueous binding agent and a fine grained complex oxide, wherein the complex oxide comprises $A_xB_yO_z$ where A and B are different elements and x and y are greater than zero, and z corresponding to a product of the sum of (x+y) multiplied by a factor between 1.5 ~~and 2.5~~ and 2.5;

the sheath coatings of the particles affording enhanced surface area to the underlying substrate particles and being thermodynamically stable and highly adherent, thus effecting enhanced abrasion performance of the ~~particles~~ particles;

wherein said aqueous binding agent comprises a silicate.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with claim 2, wherein the silicate binder~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1, wherein said silicate comprises colloidal silicic acid.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1 ~~wherein,~~ wherein element A is a metal as characterized in the periodic system of elements.
5. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 4, wherein the complex oxide contains at least one element from the group of metals in the periodic system of elements.
6. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 5, wherein the elements from the group of metals are selected from the group

consisting of titanium, zirconium, iron, cobalt-nickel and combinations, nickel, and combinations thereof.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1 ~~wherein, wherein~~ element B is selected from the group consisting of amphoteric elements in the periodic system of elements.
8. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1 ~~wherein, wherein~~ the complex oxide contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of amphoteric elements in the periodic system of elements.
9. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 8, wherein the amphoteric elements are selected from the group consisting of vanadium, chromium, manganese, zinc, tin-antimony and combinations, antimony, and combinations thereof.
10. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1 ~~wherein, wherein~~ the sheathing contains 0.05 – 5.0 weight % of the complex oxide relative to the mass of the untreated particles.
11. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 10, wherein the sheathing contains 0.1 – 2.0 weight % of the complex oxide compound relative to the mass of the untreated particles.
12. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 10 ~~wherein, wherein~~ the sheathing contains a binding agent portion of 0.05 – 2.0 weight % relative to the mass of the untreated particles.
13. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 12, wherein the binding agent amounts to 0.1 – 1.0 weight % relative to the mass of the untreated particles.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Method A~~ method for the treatment of abrasive particles comprising the steps of
- i. wetting the abrasive particles in a mixer with a liquid silicate binding agent, ~~agent~~;
 - ii. admixing the wetted abrasive particles with a fine grained complex oxide comprising $A_xB_yO_z$ [[,]] until the complex oxide is substantially evenly distributed over the surface of the abrasive particles to form sheaths thereon, ~~where~~ wherein A and B are different ~~elements and elements~~, x and y are greater than zero, and z ~~corresponding~~ corresponds to a product of the sum of (x+y) multiplied by a factor between 1.5 and ~~2.5~~, and 2.5; and
 - iii. heating the sheated abrasive particles to enhance adhesion of the sheathing.
15. (Currently amended) ~~Method in accordance with~~ The method of claim 14, wherein the mixing periods ~~in Steps~~ in steps i) and ii) each amount to 0.5 and 5 minutes.
16. (Currently amended) ~~Method in accordance with~~ The method of claim 14 ~~wherein~~, wherein the heating is carried out at temperatures between 100 and 900°C.
17. (Currently amended) ~~Synthetic resin-bound abrasive, products made with abrasive particles in accordance with~~, resin-bound, abrasive products comprising the abrasive particles of claim 1.